

REMARKS

Summary of Office Action

Claims 1-441 are pending in the above-identified patent application.

The Examiner has found that there are allegedly four distinct inventions in the above-identified patent application, and has required restriction to one of those inventions, as follows:

Group I: Claims 1-5, 155-158 and 288-292, drawn to "an integrated security and communications system";

Group II: Claims 6-88, 159-236 and 293-375, drawn to "a security system with voice mail functionality";

Group III: Claims 89-153, 237-271 and 376-416, drawn to "a security system with electronic mail messaging"; and

Group IV: Claims 154, 272-287 and 417-441, drawn to "a secure communications system."

Applicants' Election

Applicants provisionally elect, for examination in this application, the invention of Group III (claims 89-153, 237-271 and 376-416).

Applicants hereby traverse the restriction requirement to the following extent:

First, the Examiner characterizes the Group III invention as limited to "a security system with electronic mail messaging." However, the Group III claims are not limited to electronic mail. Each of independent claims 89, 237 and 376 defines the security system as having the capability of carrying out "at least one of (a) sending, and (b) receiving, data." While each of dependent claims 90, 238 and 377 characterizes the data capability of claims 89, 237 and 376 as including electronic mail functionality, dependent claims 109, 254 and 396 characterize that capability as Internet/World Wide Web functionality. Accordingly, applicants believe that the correct

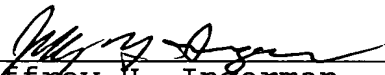
characterization of the Group III invention is at least as broad as "a security system with electronic mail messaging and/or Internet/World Wide Web functionality."

Second, applicants believe that claims 130-153, identified by the Examiner as belonging to Group III, belong to Group IV.

Third, applicants believe that at least claims 120, 121, 126, 129, 263, 264, 269, 271, 407, 408, 413 and 416 link Groups III and IV. Accordingly, if any of the linking claims are allowed, then at least some of the Group IV claims, as defined in MPEP § 809, must be rejoined to the application.

An early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey H. Ingerman
Reg. No. 31,069
Attorney for Applicants
FISH & NEAVE
Customer No. 1473
1251 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10020-1105
Tel.: (212) 596-9000